

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS:IPERNICK:WBROWN:RTYNER:SM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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TOSEC 107

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELLING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV

FOR VEST FROM KING

NONE OF THE THREE NETWORK EVENING NEWS PROGRAMS MARCH 26
CARRIED FILM REPORTS FROM MOSCOW.

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS THREE KALB PIECES (FIRST TWO ON TV,
THIRD ON RADIO) BROADCAST THIS MORNING. KALB HIGHLIGHTS
LACK OF "BREAKTHROUGH" IN TALKS TOWARD SALT AGREEMENT,
RECENT SOVIET GAINS IN STRATEGIC ARMS, AND RELATIONSHIP OF
THESE SUBJECTS TO POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL TRIP TO MOSCOW.

A. QUOTE: KISSINGER PLANNED TO LEAVE MOSCOW TOMORROW
MORNING BUT ANOTHER SESSION WITH BREZHNEV MAY DELAY HIS
DEPARTURE UNTIL LATE THURSDAY. HE IS STILL PLANNING TO
RETURN TO WASHINGTON IN TIME FOR A FRIDAY MEETING WITH
DAYAN. . . KISSINGER AND BREZHNEV BEGAN THEIR THIRD DAY OF
INTENSIVE PRIVATE TALKS AT THE KREMLIN FOCUSING BASICALLY
ON TWO ISSUES: THE FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS
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AGREEMENT; AND THE PROSPECTS FOR A SYRIA-ISRAELI DISEN-

GAGEMENT DEAL SIMILAR TO THE ONE KISSINGER MEDIATED BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS ARE ESPECIALLY ROUGH WITH BREZHNEV TELLING KISSINGER NOT TO TRY TO BLACK-MAIL THE SOVIET UNION AND KISSINGER TELLING BREZHNEV NOT TO TRY TO BLACKMAIL THE U.S. IF A BREAKTHROUGH ON STRATEGIC ARMS IS ACTUALLY REACHED, IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE THE SHAPE OF WHAT DIPLOMATs HERE CALL ASYMMETRICAL MIRV TEST-ING. IN SIMPLE ENGLISH THAT MEANS RUSSIA WOULD BE ALLOWED TO TEST A LARGER NUMBER OF WARHEADS THAN THE US, THE KIND OF WARHEADS THAT ARE FIRED IN CLUSTERS FROM ONE MISSILE AND THEY CAN BE INDIVIDUALLY TARGETED. RUSSIA GIVEN THIS ADVANTAGE BECAUSE SHE IS BEHIND THE US IN HER TECHNOLOGY. UNQUOTE

B. QUOTE: KISSINGER AND BREZHNEV SHIFTED FROM STRATEGIC ARMS TO THE ME BUT THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED BREAK-THROUGHS AS YET IN EITHER AREA. THE RUSSIANS ARE DRIVING A PARTICULARLY HARD BARGAIN ON STRATEGIC ARMS. BREZHNEV'S HAND HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED, WE ARE TOLD, BY TWO RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. FIRST, THE RUSSIANS WITHIN THE PAST MONTHS HAVE MASTERED THE COMPLICATED TECHNOLOGY OF MIRV. SECOND, THEY HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED FOUR NEW LONG-RANGE MISSILES . . . THE RUSSIANS MAY SOON BE IN THE POSITION OF OUTSTRIPPING THE US IN THE SIZE AND NUMBER OF WARHEADS THEY CAN DELIVER TO INDIVIDUAL TARGETS. IF THIS PROCESS CONTINUES, THIS WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR SHIFT IN THE WORLD BALANCE OF POWER. KISSINGER'S EFFORT HERE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE IS TO PUT LIMITS ON RUSSIA'S WARHEAD AND MISSLE PROGRAMS AND THEN TO PUT THIS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A LARGEST STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT THAT THE PRESIDENT CAN SIGN WHEN AND IF HE GETS HERE THIS COMING SUMMER. UNQUOTE

C. QUOTE: . . . BOTH SIDES HAVE STILL BEEN UNABLE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK ON THE FRAMEWORK FOR A NEW STRATEGIC ARMS AGREEMENT THAT PRESIDENT NIXON CAN SIGN WHEN AND IF HE GETS HERE THIS SUMMER. THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF A DIPLOMATIC CHARADE HERE, EVERYONE PROCEEDING AS THOUGH A NIXON VISIT TO RUSSIA IS A SURE BET, BUT EVERYONE AT THE SAME TIME REALIZING THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL FATE IS BEING DECIDED IN WASHINGTON AND HIS TRIP HERE MAY WELL BE A UNCLASSIFIED

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CASUALTY OF THAT RESOLUTION. UNQUOTE

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